

Ed Mahern



Gas prices are a cause for concern for just about everyone who drives a car.

As a member of the Indiana House of Representatives, I have worked to keep the Indiana gas tax the 6th lowest in the nation and the lowest among neighboring Midwest states.

Fuel Taxes including surcharges

	IN	IL	KY	MI	OH	US Average
Gas cents/gal	15	19	16.4	19	22	19.9

Tips for fuel-efficient driving

- Make sure that the vehicle's tires are properly inflated.
- Mileage drops off drastically above 50 mph.
- Don't carry extra cargo. For each 100 pounds your vehicle carries, it costs about one-half mile per gallon.
- Have your wheels aligned. Less rolling resistance means the engine does not have to work as hard.
- Avoid unnecessary braking and accelerating.
- Keep the engine tuned. A misfiring spark plug can cut fuel efficiency by up to 30 percent.

District 97
Representative

**Ed
Mahern**

Legislative Office

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Residence

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Legislators return more than \$210 million to Indiana taxpayers

In the last budget year, the Indiana General Assembly enacted inventory tax cuts which will provide relief for farm and small business owners across the state.

It is estimated that the total savings will amount to more than \$210 million in 2000 and 2001. This means that many Hoosiers will see even smaller tax bills in the years ahead.

In the 1999 session, legislators approved a plan that provided a credit for property taxes paid in the first \$12,500 of assessed valuation on personal property, including inventory, mobile homes and farm and manufacturing equipment.

By enacting this credit and assuring it covers both equipment and inventory, we eliminated inventory taxes for nearly 90 percent of the businesses and farms in Indiana. The inventory tax cut is just one part of what is now more than \$1.5 billion in tax relief for the people of Indiana.

Government Phone Numbers

State Information Center	1-800-457-8283
Federal Information Center ..	1-800-688-9889
Indiana House	232-9600
Indiana Senate	232-9400
Office of the Governor	232-4567
Secretary of State	232-6531

More Money Saving Tax Deductions

- **Homeowners:** Property taxes on a taxpayer's principal place of residence can be deducted up to \$2,500.

- **Senior citizens:** The income tax deduction for most seniors was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Each qualified taxpayer may take this deduction, which means married couples may now deduct \$3,000 from their adjusted gross income. Many seniors also received an increase in the property tax deduction from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

- **Dependent children:** The income tax deduction was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for dependent children under age 19 and full-time students under age 24. You may reduce your Indiana adjusted gross income for each qualifying dependent.

- **Renters:** The renters' income tax deduction was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

- **Inventory tax cuts:** The inventory tax was eliminated for 87 percent of Indiana businesses and farms.

Rep. Ed Mahern

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